

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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Agents: J. M. Smith, New Westminster, B. C. and elsewhere.

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**THE NEWS.**

The Eastern intelligence received yesterday is up to the 3rd inst. The great event, which we previously mentioned was near at hand, has come off—Savannah has been taken. One hundred and fifty guns, 33,000 bales of cotton, ammunition and railway apparatus unlimited, besides 800 prisoners, have rewarded Sherman's exertions. Hardee and his fifteen thousand militiamen made their escape during the night of the 20th of December, across the Savannah river. If this force reached Charleston by the line of railway, as is asserted, Foster may have been less on the alert than usual; for he commanded a portion of the line not far from the Coosawatchie. Savannah has been in Sherman's hands for three weeks, having been taken on the 21st ult. In a former article, we stated that on the fall of Savannah Sherman would march upon Augusta, and, by thus controlling the Savannah river, virtually cut the Confederacy in two, and that from this point he would be able to capture Charleston. We see that the same press, and that our previous remarks on Sherman's campaign are in every particular sustained by the *Sacramento Union*. Says that journal in an able article on Sherman's operations:

"Within forty days after the enemy had begun to crow over a fancied success in forcing Sherman back to the Tennessee, he had crushed Hood with one hand and captured a fortified city, nearly five hundred miles distant, with the other! It was one wing of the Army of Atlanta that destroyed the enemy in Tennessee while the other was marching to grasp the city of Savannah, and the grandeur and brilliancy of the campaign cannot be fully appreciated without taking into view the operations of both. For a parallel in magnitude of conception and solidity of results we must go back to the wars of Napoleon, and even there we shall find no campaign where the cost of a great triumph was so slight. The immediate fruits of this astonishing campaign, however, are not a fair measure of its value. When Sherman started southward from Atlanta we said that if successful he would cut the Gordian knot of the rebellion. After we had opened the Mississippi and recovered East Tennessee, the most decisive operation that could be undertaken, excepting the annihilation of Lee's army, was the opening of the Savannah river from the coast to Augusta. Between Augusta and the mountain walls of East Tennessee there are no facilities of communication, and below Augusta two or three garrisons and a fleet of light draught gunboats will not only prevent the 'Army of Northern Virginia' from making any use of the resources of the Gulf States, but sever the Confederacy as completely as the possession of the Mississippi divides the forces of Magruder and Hood. An army holding this line and employing a large force of mounted infantry, can dominate both South Carolina and Georgia and recruit their able-bodied slaves at will. Better still, in the present situation, the rebel general at Richmond will see that the bulk of Sherman's army can be easily and quickly transported to Newbern, or using Augusta as a base, cross the narrowest part of South Carolina and enter the Old North State, thus co-operating directly with Grant in closing the avenues of retreat from the rebel Capital. The clear proof furnished by Sherman's march that the 'Confederacy' is a mere shell is one of its most important results."

Almost simultaneously with Sherman's capture of Savannah, Mobile and Wilmington were attacked by the Federal forces. General Granger landed at Passauga, on the Mississippi seaboard, about thirty miles south-west of Mobile, and according to late accounts, after repulsing the Confederates, had got within three miles of the city. Another force, under General McKeown, had gone from Pensacola, and was marching on Blakely, a town about twenty miles to the north-east of Mobile. In the meantime, the navy in Mobile Bay were making elaborate preparations for a combined attack on the city; so that in all probability we shall not have to wait many days before this sea-port shall have been added to the other trophies of the winter's campaign of the Northern army.

The attack on Wilmington, with all the immense naval power at the Federal command, is not likely, we are of opinion, to be productive of immediate results. This town is only second to Charleston in its defences. A Federal force of 5000 men, after considerable opposition, effected a landing about two and a half miles about Fort Fisher, defeated the Confederates and secured a lodgment. It would appear, however, that the expedition was not successful, for the force afterwards re-embarked. The damage, so far, sustained by Fort Fisher is the burning of the barracks, the disabling of two guns, and some injury to the works. The vessels engaged in the bombardment are the Pawhattan, Wabash, Minnesota, Susquehanna and the New Ironsides, mounting 201 guns, of immense calibre. If this fort can be silenced, the light draft steamers will then be able to go into action and test the batteries on the river. The garrison of Wilmington numbers at present 15,000 men, under General Bragg. Its possession would threaten, as we have shown before, the supplies of both Charleston and Richmond.

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**LATER EASTERN NEWS.** [TELEGRAPHED TO "OREGONIAN"] DATES TO JANUARY 3.

**CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH.** WASHINGTON, Dec. 25th, 7 p. m.—A despatch received this evening by the President from Sherman, dated Savannah, Dec. 22d, announces his occupation of the city and the capture of 35,000 bales of cotton, and about 25,000 soldiers.

**REBEL PIRATE SEA KING.** The new rebel pirate sea king, name changed to the *Black Hawk*, reported activity at work on the Atlantic. Captain Wilson, of the brig *Sultan*, reports the destruction of his vessel; also the bark *Etna*, E. J. Godfrey, St. Clair, and Charter Oak. The ship *Case* was captured by the *Black Hawk*, and the crew were kept in the *Black Hawk* until they were released. Sherman says that a formidable attempt on Charleston will be an early consequence of the fall of Savannah.

**CONFEDERATE REPORTS.** Richmond papers urgently demand that Gen. Lee should be made commander-in-chief of all the rebel armies, or Dictator. In the rebel House of Representatives, on the 25th, a resolution declaring that the rebel army ought not to be suspended was defeated by a ten majority. The *Richmond Sentinel* foresees a formidable campaign of the national arms against Charleston in prospect, and considers that the taking of Savannah by our troops, and the occupation of the city by Sherman's army, simply give the enemy another point on our coast. The ocean front of Georgia will be exposed like the ocean front of North Carolina and Virginia to a species of hostility that will annoy us without stopping the foe.

**EXPEDITION AGAINST MOBILE.** New Orleans, Dec. 23—An expedition under General Granger, in considerable force, landed at Passauga, Miss., on the 15th, and pushed rapidly toward Mobile. A brief skirmish occurred on the 16th, near Franklin's Creek, and the rebels were routed. Many people rejoiced at the sight of the Union forces. The army rendered valuable assistance to the troops in landing. Two ironclad gunboats had gone up the Passauga river for three miles. Everything is progressing favorably. Refugees report that five thousand militia in Mobile had met with great success in breaking up guerrilla camps, capturing stores, etc. Twenty-five hundred rebels under Wirt Adams and Scott were threatening Baton Rouge on the 24th.

**HOOD'S RETREAT.** CINCINNATI, Dec. 31.—The *Commercial's* Columbus, Tenn., correspondent thinks that the bulk of Hood's army is still north of the Tennessee river. Hood first attempted to strike the river at Decatur, Ala., but Granger had occupied the place in advance and headed him off; at the same time the gunboats came up the river and compelled him to abandon a point near Florence where he had pontoons. Owing to the bad condition of the roads developments will not be made very rapidly.

**ATTACK ON WILMINGTON.** FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 30.—The Santiago de Cuba and Fort Jackson have been the only vessels attached to the Naval Fleet which have yet arrived from Wilmington. The latest advice from Porter represents him as still subjecting Fort Fisher to a vigorous bombardment.

**RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.** The *World's* City Point special dispatch, dated Dec. 29th, says: A demonstration has been made in front of the Sixth Corps during the past few days indicating offensive movements by the rebels. It is thought they were to capture the railroads of the city, and to operate against Sheridan, or probably to aid the forces at Wilmington or Charleston.

New York, Jan. 1.—The *Richmond Examiner* of the 29th says the privateer Blank has been seized at Nassau by order of the British Government. The *Richmond Examiner* of the 20th, speaking of the capture of Savannah, says all rice on the plantations in the vicinity of the city fell into the hands of the Yankees. The amount is estimated at half a million bushels. The Confederate Government succeeded in removing most of the stores. The main loss sustained by the rebels, however, was the destruction of the pontoon bridge across which our troops passed was also lost.

The latest rebel newspapers received contain a manifesto from Jeff Davis, giving notice that the privateer *Denet G. Burley*, concerned in the capture of vessels on Lake Erie, and in the attempt to seize the steamer *Michigan* and liberate the rebel prisoners on Johnson's Island, and who was recently released from arrest in Toronto, is an officer regularly enlisted in the rebel Navy, and is dispatched from Richmond especially for the purpose of being endeavor to carry out.

**SHERMAN AND SAVANNAH.** WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A private letter from the fleet says that refugees from Charleston and other points in South Carolina state that all the inhabitants who had been removed into the interior, and that great distress prevails in the city. Scarcely any flour or other necessities can be obtained at any price. Sherman's success occasions general alarm. Several blockade runners are in Charleston harbor waiting for an opportunity to escape. Many passengers for Nassau have engaged berths. There is little business in Charleston other than that connected with blockade running and war matters.

New York, Jan. 2.—The *Times*' special despatch says that Savannah will be taken and sold by the Government, and if any person claiming a show a valid claim they will be reimbursed. It is reported that Simon Draper, Collector of New York, has been appointed agent at Savannah to superintend the shipment and sale of the cotton.

New York, Jan. 3.—A Hilton Head special correspondent, under date of the 26th ult., says Kilpatrick's corps has just returned from destroying a portion of the Alabama and Gulf Railroad near Altamaha river. The locomotives and a large number of cars are shut up between Albany and the Altamaha river. Sherman's division of the 15th corps, and Gen. Fuller with two brigades of the 17th corps, spent five days on the railroad. There is a plan to recede from the railroad towards Darien, from which port heavy trains loaded from blockade runners passed into the interior.

A force of cavalry accompanied by infantry has crossed into South Carolina. The obstructions in the Savannah harbor were rapidly removed. Boats run daily from this point and a great quantity of valuable property is daily brought to light.

New York, Dec. 4.—The *World's* Beaufort correspondent of the 28th says: Increased preparations are making in Sherman's army to resume the offensive. The rebels are expected to attack on Charleston and Branchville. Refugees say that Charleston is being surrounded by formidable earthworks. Foster's army was still at Broad River landing, covering the Charleston and Savannah railroads. The rebels are expected to try and force a passage through the swamps.

The *Times*' Paris correspondent says that a few days after the result of the election was known in Paris, Mr. Dayton (U. S. Minister) had a long interview with the French Minister, and delivered a despatch from Mr. Seward. Since then the tone of the official press has entirely changed. All abuse of Lincoln and the North has stopped. The papers now tell the truth about Northern successes.

The *Herold's* London correspondent considers Earl Russell's letter as the last nail in the coffin for the Confederate cause abroad. The same letter speaks of the friendship of France towards the United States, and says that Napoleon told Slidell that there was no hope of recognition. The rebels must make the best terms with the North they could. The rebel scrip was sinking, American stock was rising.

**BEFORE RICHMOND.** The *Herold's* correspondent says fifty picked men now command Farrar's Island, in James river, near Dutch Gap. The rebels have been driven by this party from an important point opposite the Howlett House battery. Among the results accomplished by the movement is the destruction of the pontoon boats used by the rebels. Activity continues within the rebel lines. The troops that evacuated Savannah are doubtless on their way to reinforce Lee and also Breckinridge. We may look for a hostile movement soon by Lee.

**BRAZIL AND THE FLORIDA.** WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The report that the Brazilian Representative accepted Secretary Seward's letter in relation to the seizure of the Florida as satisfactory is not true. The real reason that the Charge d'Affaires was not authorized to determine. The letter of the Secretary has, however, been transmitted to the Government of Brazil, and in due time an answer will be forwarded through the usual channel.

**EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.** PORTLAND, MAINE, Dec. 28.—The Peruvian, from Liverpool on the 16th, arrived here this evening. Alluding to the Florida disaster the *London Times* says: Assuming it to have been by design, we are not disposed to waste much indignation on the subject, as the method of procuring the equipment of the Florida was such a violation of neutrality as to deprive the sufferers of sympathy. Brazil is really the outraged party. The *Times* predicts that Seward will make ample apology.

A blockade runner case has been on trial in the Court of Exchequer, in which the Judge pointed out that all the parties in the matter were foreigners, and denounced such violations of the rights of asylum. A large open air meeting of the operatives of Manchester adopted resolutions strongly opposing the recognition of the slave-holders' Confederacy. Parliament meets on the 1st February.

The breach between the Papal government and the Prussian Minister at Rome is widening. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The *Australasian*, with dates from Liverpool to the 17th, and from Queenstown to the 18th, has arrived. The *London Times* applauds Secretary Seward for the well merited rebuke which he gave Mr. Parkes, the would-be presenter of a peace address to President Lincoln.

NEW YORK, December 22.—The Africa from Liverpool with dates to the 16th has arrived. The news is unimportant. There is an immediate prospect of a reduction of the Bank of England rates to 6 per cent. The Confederate loan was much depressed by the news of Sherman's progress. A violent gale on the coast of India caused a great inundation, and thousands of lives were lost. The Earl of Carnarvon died on the 26th inst.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The *London Times* compares Sherman's movement in Georgia to the Duke of Marlborough's march into Germany, which resulted in the battle of Blenheim. It says that nothing in modern times equals it. It will either make Sherman a famous general, or may ruin him and his army. The *Times*' Paris correspondent says that a few days after the result of the election was known in Paris, Mr. Dayton (U. S. Minister) had a long interview with the French Minister, and delivered a despatch from Mr. Seward. Since then the tone of the official press has entirely changed. All abuse of Lincoln and the North has stopped. The papers now tell the truth about Northern successes.

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ST. JOHN'S, N. F., December 24.—The steamer *Russian*, with dates from Liverpool to the 15th, has arrived of Cape Race. Her news is unimportant. The British Emancipation Society had presented a congratulatory address to Mr. Adams, the American Minister, upon Mr. Lincoln's re-election. American advices in view of Sherman's progress in Georgia and Hood's operations in Tennessee, were regarded with the greatest interest. The *Times* urged the opening of negotiations in regard to the American war, saying that it must come to that at last, and the sooner the better for America and the world at large.

**SERVICES OF PLATE FOR MESSRS. BREW AND COX.**—Two very handsome and costly silver services arrived per steamer Oregon from San Francisco yesterday, consigned to His Excellency Governor Seymour, and intended for presentation to Messrs. Charles Brew and W. G. Cox, the leaders of the Chiloaten expedition of last summer. Each service consists of a tray, urn, coffee-pot, tea-pot, sugar-bowl, slip-bowl and cream-pitcher, weighing about six hundred ounces in all. The value of all is two thousand dollars. The silver is the same standard as United States coin, the designs are very elegant, and the workmanship of the whole is beyond cavi or criticism. The inscription on one set will explain the object of the presentation: "Presented, on behalf of the Government and people of British Columbia, by the Governor and Executive Council (the Legislature) not being in session) to His Hon. Charles Brew, in gratitude for his services in the suppression of the insurrection of the Chiloaten Indians." The letter on the other set is the same, but that the name of William George Cox, Esq., is inserted.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The steamer *Mollie Able*, from New Orleans, Dec. 26th, has arrived: A force of about 2,000 men, including the 2nd Maine cavalry, 1st Florida cavalry, 14th New York infantry, and three regiments of colored infantry and two pieces of artillery, under command of Col. Robinson, of the 97th colored infantry, left for a raid into Alabama on the 13th, to sever communications by telegraph and rail at Pollard and destroy such property as stores as might be found there. Reaching Pollard on the 15th, the place was found evacuated. The railroad depot and train of eight cars, mostly filled with grain and government property, commissary stores and ordnance were destroyed, and 2,000 stand of arms captured. The railroad was also destroyed by our troops and the expedition then returned.

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